



# FREEDOM WATCH



November 21, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

(Compiled from  
CNN.com)

### Bush rallies troop support

**WASHINGTON**—The Bush administration has quietly begun approaching dozens of its allies to feel out their willingness to contribute to possible U.S. military action in Iraq. The State Department sent diplomatic cables to U.S. embassies in about 50 countries, instructing American envoys to “begin a conversation” with host governments. But at the same time an official insisted the United States is “not at the stage of specific requests.” Rather, he said, the U.S. message is, “think about what steps might be taken” and “what’s available” if Iraq does not comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441.

### Herpes vaccination improved

**GALVESTON, Texas**—A new vaccine prevented genital herpes in more than 70 percent of women who were previously uninfected with either the



Capt. Keith Diebert (right) looks through the slit lamp to get a magnified view of Lt. Barry Lowe’s eyes.

## Reservist has his ‘eye’ on Afghanistan

Story & photo by Spc.  
Erica Leigh Foley  
28th Public Affairs  
Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — Servicemembers get an eye exam once every two years and just before deploying. In this combat zone, the 339th Combat Support Hospital Reservists use their own professionals to care for the needs of coalition servicemembers.

Capt. Keith Diebert, 424th Medical Logistics Battalion, provides for the optical needs of military forces in theater along with helping the local community and the Afghan Na-

tional Army.

Adding screws and nose pads that he brought from his own office, Fairview Vision where he has practiced for 18 years, he can fix many of the damaged frames that come in. If glasses are lost or damaged beyond repair, he has the means to give a complete eye exam and make glasses.

This one-man team is equipped with a projector, refractor and a slit lamp.

“The slit lamp gives me a highly magnified view of the front part of the eye,” he said.

This is important to help determine whether there is an infection or injury, and the extent of

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*“No amount of training will ever prepare you for this.”*

— Capt. Keith Diebert

424th Med. Log. Bn.

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the damage.

Infections have been common throughout the dusty season in Afghanistan. He has treated them using oral and topical antibiotics which are placed on the inside of a bandage-like contact lens, keeping the eye

## 82nd pass time with laughs

By Sgt. Reebea Critser  
28th Public Affairs  
Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — After a long day of searching homes for weapons, 82nd Airborne Division soldiers try to relax and get their minds off the events that day. Some make music, others play chess or work out, but some draw laughter.

Besides telling jokes, two soldiers draw out their frustrations and pass their work around.

“I’ve been drawing since I was a kid,” said Sgt. Ulises Patino, 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. “I draw timely events, people’s misfortune, klutzy things, anything humorous.”

He said although he doesn’t witness the “funny actions” of others, he draws the events from stories told. On some such occasions, Patino’s inspiration is their executive officer.

“A tracer round went off and he’s (the XO) a tough guy, but got scared and started running yelling for the battalion commander.”

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protected.

"No amount of training will ever prepare you for this," said Diebert, from New Cumberland, Pa.

In Afghanistan, he said he encounters unusual injuries which require eye surgeries.

"As a civilian you wouldn't see blast injuries or be doing surgery," Diebert said. "I have had a few surgeries where I went in and picked out as much debris as possible."

A blast injury occurs when an exploding ordnance "blasts" a particle such as

dust, into the cornea. Clogged oil ducts in the eyelid, also known as styas, have also been a common occurrence here.

Without the regular luxuries of the office, the doctor has made a few make-shift suggestions to help the patients. Since there aren't hot-

compresses available, he has suggested his patience heat up a rock, wrap it and hold it on the sty.

"It's not what you would do normally, but it has the same effect," he said.

Diebert can be found at the Bagram Air Base hospital 0330Z to 1200 Z.

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said Patino, from Long Beach, Calif. "I always hear about something with him, like this one time a dog barked at him and he literally jumped on the first sergeant. That was funny and the battalion commander and the first sergeant told me of that one."

The soldiers don't seem to mind being the butt of his drawings.

"His drawings are great for everyone's morale," said Pittsburgh native Staff Sgt. Timothy Berbach, 1st Bn., 319th FAR. "They make you laugh at everything instead of moping around."

Besides being humorous, Patino said the drawings have evolved, like the time a sergeant first class tripped on the ramp of a C5 when their unit first arrived at Kandahar Air Field. Patino said what made it funny was a TV crew filming their descent of the ramp.

"It's like a journal in drawings," he said. "No one minds and asks me to draw more."

While Patino draws on paper, 2nd Lt. Joseph Weinburgh, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., draws on



**Pfc. Douglas Starlipper (left), native of Clarksville, Md., has a laugh at the drawings of Sgt. Ulises Patino, native to Long Beach, Calif. Both soldiers are with the 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.**

the computer.

"I didn't have a lot of paper because the paper that was available was used to write down details of the mission," said Weinburgh, a Fayetteville, N.C., native

He then drew on MRE boxes, but most were destroyed with rain. Using Microsoft paint, he spends most of his free time staring intently at the screen.

"It's a way to channel frustration," Weinburgh said.

His first computer drawing was from Operation Mountain Sweep.

"The soldiers were



**2nd Lt. Joseph Weinburgh, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., draws cartoons on his computer at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan.**

worn out, beat out from seven days in the mountains," Weinburgh said. "I took their frustration and came out with that (Mountain Sweep Bob) — the source of entertainment for the com-

pany."

It took four hours to complete the drawing.

"That's what a lot of guys looked like when they came back," said Weinburgh, pointing to a bearded soldier wearing

sunglasses.

"A lot of the soldier's loads were heavier than with other missions," he said. "That's why their uniforms were ripped up and their boots torn apart."

In another file, Weinburgh drew an Intelligence section picture.

"Our S-2's intel wasn't matching up one time," Weinburgh recalled. "So I drew a picture of the (Intelligence section) captain standing in front of the chalkboard, with chicken bones, lottery machines and a Magic 8-Ball nearby. Also on the wall, phones were hung with direct lines to the psychic hotline and Miss Cleo."

"Most thought it was funny," he said. "Most of my ideas come from guys in my platoon. They see me as someone who identifies with what they're going through, and it makes them feel better."

Some of his soldiers agree.

"His drawings motivate you," said Flint, Mich., native Sgt. Scott Stark, Co. 3, 3rd Bn., 505th PIR. "It's something to laugh at. It's the irony of us. It's proof that I'm not the stud I used to be."

## HIND SIGHT

**1620**

Leaders of the *Mayflower* expedition frame the "Mayflower Compact," designed to bolster unity among the settlers.

**1904**

Motorized omnibuses replace horse-drawn cars in Paris.

**1907**

Cunard liner *Mauritania* sets a new speed record for steamship travel, 624 nautical miles in a one-day run.

**1917**

German ace Rudolf von Eschwege is killed over Macedonia when he attacks a booby-trapped observation balloon packed with explosives.

**1986**

The Justice Department begins an inquiry into the National Security Council into what will become known as the Iran-Contra scandal.

### BRIEFS, from Page 1

oral or genital herpes virus. The findings, published in today's edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, are also good news for babies. About 2,500 die every year and more are born mentally retarded because their mothers pass on the virus. The vaccine worked only for the women, and only for those who had not been exposed to the type of herpes that infects the mouth. There has never been a vaccine for herpes before. Drug company GlaxoSmithKline funded the research.

### Homeless in New York might be sent out to sea

NEW YORK — New York City officials flew to the Bahamas Wednesday morning in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's private jet to assess the possibility of using retired pleasure cruise ships docked there as homeless shelters. The "fact-finding mission" was a preliminary step by the Department of Homeless Services in determining the feasibility of the idea, and the department was not likely to decide anytime soon whether the city's homeless will be docked in the river, said spokesman Jim Anderson. The idea came from the Bloomberg administration, said Anderson, as a creative way to tackle New York City's all-time high homeless numbers. About 67,000 people, including 16,000 children, stay in shelters each night in the city, according to Anderson.

## Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Orange County" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Sword Fish," showing at the same time.

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 64F L: 30F	Partly cloudy H: 64F L: 30F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Haze H: 63F L: 36F	Haze H: 61F L: 34F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 63F L: 36F	Haze H: 61F L: 34F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Fog H: 62F L: 32F	Haze H: 66F L: 33F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

## FREEDOM WATCH

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# COALITION SPORTSZONE



## 2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami, Fla.	3.69
2. Ohio State	3.70
3. Washington State	9.11
4. Oklahoma	10.75
5. Georgia	12.16
6. Notre Dame	13.13
7. Iowa	13.66
8. USC	15.54
9. Michigan	22.82
10. Texas	25.46
11. Kansas State	29.07
12. Florida State	29.25
13. Colorado	32.65
14. Florida	33.27
15. Penn State	36.48

## Buckeyes to add security for game against Michigan

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State officials are taking extra precautions to guard against problems with fans when the No. 2 Buckeyes face Michigan (No. 9 *ESPN/USA Today*, No. 12 *AP*) Saturday.

"Ninety to 95 percent of the fans are fabulous, but there is sometimes an undercurrent," Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger said Tuesday.

Geiger declined to get into the specifics, but he did say that personnel would be available to escort both teams and coaches on and off the field.

Geiger said he was responding to comments made by Michigan coach Lloyd Carr on Monday when he was asked if he ever feared for his safety on the field.

## The Day in Sports

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Shaq awaiting final word, but expects to play Friday

SAN ANTONIO — Shaquille O'Neal plans to make his season debut for the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night at home against the Chicago Bulls.

The All-Star center, who had surgery on his arthritic right big toe in early September, is scheduled for another checkup by team doctors on Thursday.

"I'll probably get cleared tomorrow, so hopefully I can come back on Friday," O'Neal said before the Lakers' game against the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday.

"I have to see my doctor, my therapist," he said. "He has to take X-rays, look at the foot, take blood and all that stuff."

At the time of the injury, it was expected the All-Star center would be sidelined six-to-eight weeks.

Without him, the Lakers have struggled to a 3-8 record coming into Wednesday night's game at San Antonio. On Tuesday, the team was routed by undefeated Dallas 98-72 to fall to 1-5 on the road.

The Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday that O'Neal was already cleared to play by Dr. Robert Mohr, who performed surgery on the star center's right big toe.

## Vargas suspended nine months

LAS VEGAS — Fernando Vargas went before Nevada boxing authorities Wednesday prepared to take his punishment for using steroids. He just didn't expect so much of it.

Despite putting himself at the mercy of the Nevada Athletic Commission, Vargas was suspended for nine months and fined \$100,000 for testing positive for steroids following his Sept. 14 knockout loss to Oscar De La Hoya.

Though the suspension was retroactive to the De La Hoya fight, it means Vargas cannot fight until June 15 and will miss a proposed April comeback fight that was to be televised on network TV.

"We like Mr. Vargas but we feel like this is the right thing to do," commission Chairman Luther Mack said.

Vargas spent two hours in front of the commission, telling them he would take responsibility for the positive test, but that he never knowingly used ste-

roids while preparing to meet De La Hoya for the 154-pound titles.

"I live and die in that ring. I don't want people to ever feel I needed something like this," Vargas said.

Commissioners appeared to believe the steroid use was inadvertent, but still voted 4-1 to penalize Vargas and send a message that steroids won't be tolerated. It was believed to be the first time a boxer has been suspended for steroid use, although Francois Botha was stripped of his IBF heavyweight title in 1995 for testing positive in Germany.

"I'm a man. I take full responsibility," Vargas said. "The only thing is the layoff is definitely going to be hard."

Vargas said he had hired a nutritionist in the weeks before the fight to help him lose weight and make the 154-pound limit, and took a number of different nutritional supplements and vitamins given to him without questioning them.



## 2002 National Hockey League standings

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic

(3) Philadelphia	25 pts
(5) N.Jersey	22 pts
(6) N.Y. Rangers	20 pts
(8) Pittsburgh	19 pts
N.Y. Islanders	13 pts

#### Northeast

(1) Boston	26 pts
(7) Montreal	20 pts
Ottawa	18 pts
Toronto	16 pts
Buffalo	10 pts

#### Southeast

(2) Tampa Bay	25 pts
(4) Carolina	23 pts
Florida	19 pts
Washington	18 pts
Atlanta	12 pts

### Western Conference

#### Central

(3) Detroit	24 pts
(4) St. Louis	23 pts
(7) Chicago	21 pts
Columbus	18 pts
Nashville	11 pts

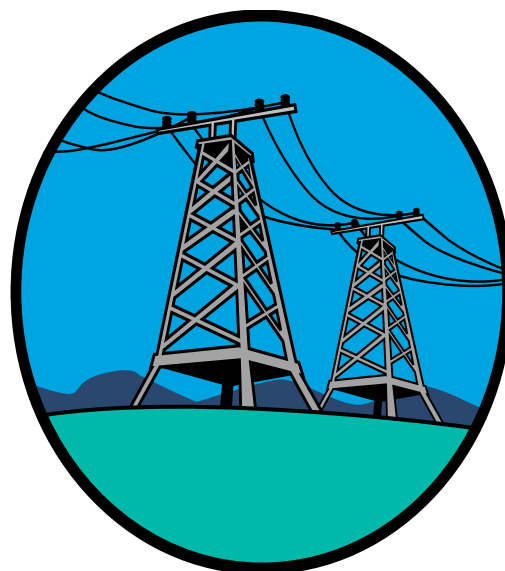
#### Northwest

(2) Minnesota	26 pts
(5) Vancouver	22 pts
Colorado	20 pts
Edmonton	18 pts
Calgary	16 pts

#### Pacific

(1) Dallas	28 pts
(6) Anaheim	22 pts
(8) Los Angeles	21 pts
San Jose	17 pts
Phoenix	16 pts

## Free phone card



Wal-mart and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are issuing 500,000 free phone cards. The cards are for soldier serving overseas during the holiday season.

To apply, visit [www.operationuplink.org/request.cfm](http://www.operationuplink.org/request.cfm).

## Belfour has stopped 94 of last 98 shots

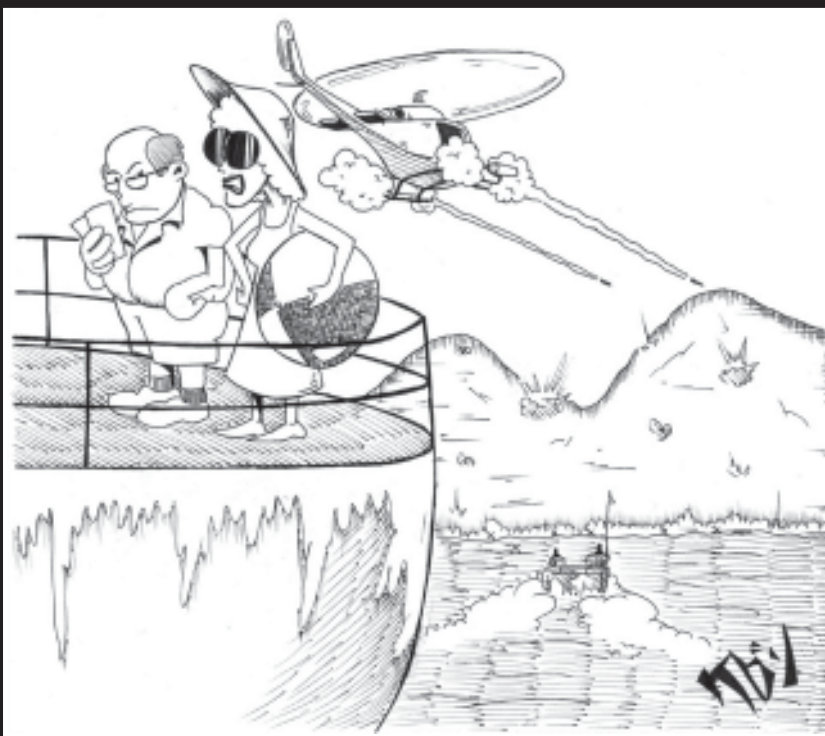
**TORONTO**— Ed Belfour is starting to make Maple Leafs fans forget about Curtis Joseph.

Belfour made 29 saves for his second shutout since signing with Toronto as the Maple Leafs beat the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Bruins 2-0 Tuesday night.

Fans chanted “Ed-die! Ed-die!” as Belfour got his 60th career shutout. The 37-year-old goaltender, who signed with Toronto after Joseph left for Detroit, didn’t make any spectacular saves but was steady throughout.

“It’s definitely a huge confidence builder for myself to hear the fans behind me 100 percent,” Belfour said. “It’s a big part of the game to know the fans are behind you.”

*“George,  
this is  
the last  
time you  
make  
our  
travel  
arrange-  
ments!”*



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support